

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 136900
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /030 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:RBUCK:JD
APPROVED BY USOAS:SNWILSON
S/S - MR. PETER TARNOFF
-----132343Z 055458 /66
O 132304Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL GRENADA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO SECRETARY'S OAS AGENDA BOOK

1. RESULT SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH LANCE: NO
PROBLEM WITH 500,000 DOLLARS FOR OAS SPECIAL ACCOUNT
FOR CULTURE. PROSPECTS GOOD FOR ANOTHER 2 MILLION
DOLLARS, WE WILL WORK HARD FOR IT, BUT CANNOT GUARANTEE.

2. BELOW IS LATEST VERSION OF CONTINGENCY TALKING
POINTS ON PEACEKEEPING AND ON ARMS POLICY, MILITARY
ASSISTANCE AND RIO TREATY.

3. PEACEKEEPING

THIS HEMISPHERE HAS LONG BEEN THE MOST PEACEFUL IN
THE WORLD.

-- RELATIONS AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS
HAVE BEEN HARMONIOUS, AS BEFITS RELATIONS AMONG NEIGHBORS.
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-- EXPENDITURES IN YOUR COUNTRIES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES
AND ARMS HAVE BEEN REMARKABLY LOW--LOWER THAN FOR
ALMOST ANY OTHER WORLD REGION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PERSISTENCE OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTES
AND OTHER CONTROVERSIES IN OUR REGION CREATES SITUATIONS

THAT COULD ENDANGER THE PEACE AND DIVERT SCARCE ENERGIES AND RESOURCES FROM DEVELOPMENT.

-- THE HIGH COST OF MODERN ARMAMENTS IS AN ECONOMIC DRAIN.

-- THE OFFENSIVE POTENTIAL OF MODERN ARMAMENTS INCREASES THE RISK OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND CONFLICT.

THE PEACEKEEPING FUNCTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ITS CHARTER.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE OAS AN IMPORTANT FORUM FOR RESOLVING LONG-STANDING TERRITORIAL CONTENTIONS IN THIS REGION.

OUR GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROGRESSIVE STRIDES TOWARD PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS OF PERSISTENT DISPUTES.

WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OTHER EFFORTS AIMED AT REDUCING TENSIONS, WE HOPE THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL ENDORSE OAS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING TERRITORIAL DISPUTES IN THE HEMISPHERE.

A GENERAL EXPRESSION OF THE RESOLVE AND COMMITMENT BY THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ORGANIZATION TO SUCH ACTION COULD BE AN INITIAL STEP TOWARD REDUCING TENSIONS, ENHANCE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, AND PROVIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AN ENCOURAGING BACKDROP TO BILATERAL INITIATIVES.

4. ARMS POLICY, MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THE RIO TREATY

-- QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED ABOUT MY GOVERNMENT'S REDUCTIONS IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE, CURTAILMENTS OF MILITARY MISSIONS IN VARIOUS OAS CAPITALS, AND RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SALES.

-- THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF THE HEMISPHERE. EVEN NOW, THE SENATE IS IN THE PROCESS OF APPROVING THE PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO THE RIO TREATY NEGOTIATED IN COSTA RICA IN 1975. WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO PEACE IN THIS HEMISPHERE.

-- MY GOVERNMENT IS ALSO DETERMINED TO WORK FOR THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. CLEARLY, MILITARY AS WELL AS OTHER RELATIONSHIPS ARE AFFECTED BY CONTINUING PATTERNS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE.

-- WE DO NOT REGARD OUR ACTIONS IN THIS FIELD AS
INCONSISTENT IN ANY WAY WITH OUR RESPONSIBILITIES
UNDER THE RIO TREATY. NONE OF THE RIO TREATY'S PROVI-
SIONS CALLS FOR GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR ARMS
SALES TO OR AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OAS.

-- PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STATED OUR POSITION ON ARMS
SALES CLEARLY: WE WILL DO NOTHING TO PROMOTE AN
ARMS RACE IN AN AREA OF THE WORLD WHERE DEFENSE
EXPENDITURES HAVE BEEN LOW AND WHERE ARMS RESTRAINT
AS SYMBOLIZED BY THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO, HAS
BEEN SUCH AN IMPORTANT GOAL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE136900
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RBUCK:JD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770211-0083
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770662/aaaaccu.tel
Line Count: 129
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 56b8c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2170788
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVISIONS TO SECRETARY'S OAS AGENDA BOOK
TAGS: OVIP, US, GJ, OAS, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: GRENADA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56b8c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009